

EXECUTIVE DECISION MEMO

DATE: March 22, 2006
TO: Secretary (00)
THROUGH: Strategic Management Council
FROM: Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology (005)
SUBJECT: Federated Information Technology (IT) Model
CONTACT: Robert McFarland

Action Requested: X Request for approval

STATEMENT OF ISSUE: On October 19, 2005, I approved the concept of a Federated IT System for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and charged the Assistant Secretary for IT (AS/IT) with development of a Federated Model and a follow-on Implementation Plan.

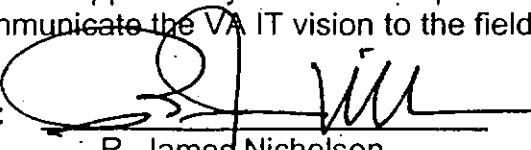
The Federated Model (Tab 1) is a framework that defines the VA Federated IT System by separating IT into two domains – an *Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Domain*, that is the responsibility of the AS/IT (CIO) and an *Application Development Domain*, that is the responsibility of the Administrations and Staff Offices. Although the domains are separated, the CIO retains oversight responsibilities for all IT projects within VA.

This Federated Model defines the domain responsibilities and their interaction; presents sample scenarios; recommends a structure for the Office of the CIO; and addresses IT governance. A critical first step of a transition to VA's Federated IT System is to establish an interim O&M structure (Tab 2), and the immediate mass detail of O&M IT personnel to the Office of the AS/IT, with permanent reassignment to follow (Tab 3 and 5). This action is required to begin the process of standardizing operating systems; enhancing IT operational effectiveness; ensuring interoperability and eliminating duplicity.

Finally, the Federated Model framework is a guide for the development of a follow-on Implementation Plan that may require adjustment to meet best business practices and processes. (Tab 4)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Federated IT System Model, dated February 17, 2006, as the framework for the VA's Federated IT System; Tab 1 (provided separately) and Tab 4. Approve establishment of the interim Office of the CIO and O&M Structure; Tabs 2 and 3 (previously provided to Human Resources). Approve the immediate mass detail of O&M IT personnel to the Office of the AS/IT with permanent reassignment to follow in accordance with the O&M organizational construct and personnel management guidelines; Tab 3 (previously provided to Human Resources) and Tab 5 guidelines. Finally, immediately execute the initial AS/IT (CIO) communication plan and key actions (listing at Tab 6), which will be supported by the leadership of the three Administrations and all Staff Offices, to communicate the VA IT vision to the field.

APPROVE/DISAPPROVE:


R. James Nicholson

3/22/06
Date

Location of Tabs Referenced in the Executive Decision Memo

Dated March 22, 2006

The following TAB items referenced in the Executive Decision Memo can be found on the OIT Communication Plan website

- **TAB 1- The Federated Model.....can be found by clicking on the “Federated Model” link located on the left side bar to the *OI&T Communications Plan Home* page.**
- **TAB 2- O&M Structure (single chart).....can be found by clicking on the “The Secretary’s Decision Documents” link located on the left side bar of the *OI&T Communications Plan Home* page and then clicking on the link titled, “Memorandum-Department Operations Council.” Scroll down to page 4 to view the chart.**
- **TAB 3- VA-Wide Interim Organizational Structure.....can be found by clicking on the “IT Organization (Effective 4/30/06)” link on the left side bar of the *OI&T Communications Plan Home* page.**
- **TAB 5- The Mass Detailing and Permanent Assignment of IT O&M Personnel Supporting VA’s IT Federated Management System..... can be found by clicking on the “Assignment of IT Employees to OI&T” link located on the left side bar of the *OI&T Communications Plan Home* page.**